

E-Filed 5/17/11

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

DAVID B. PORTEE,
Plaintiff,

v.

COUNTY OF SAN JOSE, et al.,
Defendants.

No. C 08-3566 RS (PR)

ORDER OF SERVICE;

**DIRECTING DEFENDANTS TO FILE
DISPOSITIVE MOTION OR NOTICE
REGARDING SUCH MOTION;**

INSTRUCTIONS TO CLERK

INTRODUCTION

This is a federal civil rights action filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by a *pro se* state prisoner. The Court now reviews the third amended complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a).

DISCUSSION

A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *See id.*

1 § 1915A(b)(1),(2). *Pro se* pleadings must be liberally construed. *See Balistreri v. Pacifica*
2 *Police Dep't*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988).

3 A “complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a claim
4 to relief that is plausible on its face.’” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 129 S.Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009)
5 (quoting *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)). “A claim has facial
6 plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the
7 reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.” *Id.* (quoting
8 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 556). Furthermore, a court “is not required to accept legal
9 conclusions cast in the form of factual allegations if those conclusions cannot reasonably be
10 drawn from the facts alleged.” *Clegg v. Cult Awareness Network*, 18 F.3d 752, 754–55 (9th
11 Cir. 1994). To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential
12 elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was
13 violated, and (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color
14 of state law. *See West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

15 **B. Legal Claims**

16 Plaintiff alleges that defendants, (1) J. Alvarado, a San Jose Police Department
17 (“SJPD”) property room supervisor; (2) A. Tovar, a technician with the SJPD property room;
18 (3) S. Macias, also a technician with the SJPD property room; and (4) the City of San Jose, as
19 employer, violated his federal constitutional rights by failing to preserve evidence and
20 records helpful to his efforts to invalidate the criminal judgment against him. Liberally
21 construed, plaintiff’s claims appear to be cognizable under § 1983.

22 **CONCLUSION**

23 For the foregoing reasons, the Court orders as follows:

24 1. The Clerk of the Court shall issue summons and the United States
25 Marshal shall serve, without prepayment of fees, a copy of the complaint in this matter, all
26 attachments thereto, and a copy of this order upon the following defendants at the San Jose
27 Police Department: J. Alvarado, A. Tovar, and S. Macias. The Clerk shall also mail
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1 courtesy copies of the complaint and this order to the San Jose City Attorney and the
2 California Attorney General's Office.

3 2. No later than ninety (90) days from the date of this order, defendants shall file a
4 motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion with respect to the claims in the
5 amended complaint found to be cognizable above.

6 a. If defendants elect to file a motion to dismiss on the grounds plaintiff
7 failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a),
8 defendants shall do so in an unenumerated Rule 12(b) motion pursuant to *Wyatt v. Terhune*,
9 315 F.3d 1108, 1119–20 (9th Cir. 2003), cert. denied *Alameida v. Terhune*, 540 U.S. 810
10 (2003).

11 b. Any motion for summary judgment shall be supported by adequate
12 factual documentation and shall conform in all respects to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of
13 Civil Procedure. Defendants are advised that summary judgment cannot be granted, nor
14 qualified immunity found, if material facts are in dispute. If any defendant is of the opinion
15 that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, he shall so inform the Court prior to
16 the date the summary judgment motion is due.

17 3. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the Court and
18 served on defendants no later than forty-five (45) days from the date defendants' motion is
19 filed.

20 a. In the event the defendants file an unenumerated motion to dismiss
21 under Rule 12(b), plaintiff is hereby cautioned as follows:

22 The defendants have made a motion to dismiss pursuant to Rule 12(b) of the
23 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on the ground you have not exhausted your administrative
24 remedies. The motion will, if granted, result in the dismissal of your case. When a party you
25 are suing makes a motion to dismiss for failure to exhaust, and that motion is properly
26 supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony) and/or documents, you may not simply
27 rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations,
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depositions, answers to interrogatories, or documents, that contradict the facts shown in the defendant's declarations and documents and show that you have in fact exhausted your claims. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, the motion to dismiss, if appropriate, may be granted and the case dismissed.

b. In the event defendants file a motion for summary judgment, the Ninth Circuit has held that the following notice should be given to plaintiffs:

The defendants have made a motion for summary judgment by which they seek to have your case dismissed. A motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case.

Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there is no genuine issue of material fact — that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony), you cannot simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the defendants' declarations and documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, summary judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you. If summary judgment is granted in favor of defendants, your case will be dismissed and there will be no trial. *See Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc). Plaintiff is advised to read Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317 (1986) (holding party opposing summary judgment must come forward with evidence showing triable issues of material fact on every essential element of his claim). Plaintiff is cautioned that failure to file an opposition to defendants' motion for summary judgment may be deemed to be a consent by plaintiff to the granting of the motion, and granting of judgment against plaintiff without a trial. *See Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53–54 (9th Cir. 1995) (per curiam); *Brydges v. Lewis*, 18 F.3d 651, 653 (9th Cir. 1994).

4. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than fifteen (15) days after plaintiff's opposition is filed.

5. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due. No hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court so orders at a later date.

6. All communications by the plaintiff with the Court must be served on defendants, or defendants' counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true copy of the document to defendants or defendants' counsel.


1 7. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil
2 Procedure. No further court order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2) or Local
3 Rule 16-1 is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

4 8. It is plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the
5 court informed of any change of address and must comply with the court's orders in a timely
6 fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute
7 pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

8 9. Extensions of time must be filed no later than the deadline sought to be
9 extended and must be accompanied by a showing of good cause.

10 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

11 DATED: May 17, 2011


RICHARD SEEBORG
United States District Judge

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California